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USSR PRODUCES TRACTORS, SPARE PARTS;
POOR TRACTOR MAINTENANCE CRITICIZED

PROMISE MORE GARDEN TRACTORS -- Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 24 Sep 53

Workers of the Khar'kov Tractor Assembly Plant have promised to produce thousands of garden and orchard tractors above plan in 1953. Plant machine shops are rearranging equipment to set up constant-flow lines for making parts. Old shops are being expanded and new shops built. More than 200 different machine tool attachments have been prepared to meet the new goals.

PLEDGE ABOVE-PLAN TRACTORS -- Moscow, Ogonek, 25 Oct 53

Workers of the Vladimir Tractor Plant have promised to build 300 tractors above their 1953 production assignment.

PRODUCES TRACTOR SPARE PARTS -- Yerevan, Kommunist, 20 Sep 53

In 1953, the Yerevan Avtodetal' Plant has organized the output of three spline shafts for the DT-54 tractor; the gear cluster and grooved shaft for the KT-12 skidding tractor; and other parts. The plant is now producing nine types of tractor spare parts, and has set up eight constant-flow lines for producing these parts.

In the first 8½ months of 1953, the plant turned out twice as many tractor spare parts as it did in the corresponding period of 1952. The plant is now setting up a constant-flow line for producing transmission main drive gears for KD-35 tractors. The new production line will double the output of this part.

In 1953, the plant will start producing spare parts for agricultural machines. The production of gears for potato planters is now being organized.

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MOSCOW PLANTS MAKE SPARE PARTS -- Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 23 Sep 53

About 100 industrial enterprises in Moscow are now making spare parts for tractors and agricultural machines. The Moscow Second State Bearing Plant and the Moscow Dinamo Plant are meeting their plans for spare parts, while the Moscow Komega Plant (director, Kurtynin) and the Moscow Stankonormal' Plant (director, Aksekov) are not meeting their spare parts plans.

The Moscow Tire Plant (director, Chesnokov) has completed 60 percent of the 1,700 hothouse frames it is to make for a nearby kolkhoz.

SPARE PARTS FOR TRACTORS, FARM MACHINES -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 24 Sep 53

The following plants have completed their plans for the production of spare parts for tractors and agricultural machines: the Samarkand Krasnyy Dvigatel' Plant, Ministry of Motor Vehicle and Transport Industry USSR /name of ministry is apparently an error; this plant was formerly under the Ministry of Motor Vehicle and Tractor Industry and is now under the Ministry of Machine Building/; Plant No 7 of the Ministry of Light and Food Industry Uzbek SSR; and the Karshi Repair Plant.

BROADEN USE OF HIGH-FREQUENCY HARDENING -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 24 Sep 53

The Stalingrad Tractor Plant has several dozen high-frequency current machines for surface-hardening tractor parts. The plant already uses this equipment for hardening some tractor parts, and is now taking measures to use high-frequency hardening for all tractor parts.

MTS WORKERS NEGLECT TRACTORS -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 25 Sep 53

In the past year, specialists of the Khar'kov Tractor Plant imeni Ordzhonikidze visited a number of MTS in Orlovskaya, Kurskaya, Voroshilovgradskaya, Kiyevskaya, and Sumskaya oblasts to study the operation of DT-54 tractors in the field. They found that MTS workers usually fail to give tractors the compulsory 60-hour breaking-in period. Instead, they use them immediately for heavy work.

Three DT-54 tractors were checked at Barkovicheskaya MTS, Rovenskaya Oblast. The plant specialists found that tractor No 23077 did not have a starting engine, lacked a fuel tank filter, and had two defective heat gauges. Tractor No 55485, which was received from the plant in October 1952, did not have lock rings or a fuel tank filter. The air cleaner was only half full of oil, and the oil in the crankcase had not been changed since the tractor was new, even though the tractor had been operating for 175 hours. On tractor No 48210, the engine was covered with a heavy layer of grime, and the fuel filter cap had been lost and replaced by a handful of rags.

Many MTS lack basic equipment needed to store and dispense fuel without contaminating it. As a result, fuel filters on tractors rapidly become clogged and engine power drops.

At the Gelenkovskaya MTS, Ternopol'skaya Oblast, 22 DT-54 tractors of the total park of 46 tractors stood out in a field with their engines disassembled during a pouring rain. Tractor No 5978 stood out in the open 7 days with its engine disassembled for piston ring replacement.

KhTZ-7 tractors are also being abused and neglected.

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At the Ovidiopol'skaya MTS, Odesskaya Oblast, the connecting rod bearings of a DT-54 tractor were tightened by filing down the connecting rod cap. This threw the bearings out of round, and as a result, they burned out. The tractor is now idle.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Procurement USSR has taken only the first steps toward setting up centralized repair enterprises, and these enterprises are not prepared to carry out high-quality repair work. The last time the ministry published instructions and specifications for repair of DT-54 tractors was in 1950, and these instructions are now obsolete. MTS are shipping engines to repair plants disassembled and improperly crated. As a result, the engines are damaged in transit.

At three efficiently organized MTS, DT-54 tractors have run an average of 2,580, 2,700, and 3,068 hours, respectively, before they required overhauling.

Last winter, the Khar'kov Tractor Plant trained 120 tractor drivers from Moskovskaya Oblast, but MTS of other oblasts failed to utilize the training facilities of the plant. -- Yu. Khodulin, deputy chief designer, Khar'kov Tractor Plant; S. Serikov, chief engineer, Khar'kov Tractor Assembly Plant, Stalin Prize winner.

TRACTOR PLANT TO SUPPLY MTS SHOPS WITH TOOLS -- Moscow, Trud, 26 Sep 53

In the remainder of 1953, toolmakers of the Khar'kov Tractor Plant imeni Ordzhonikidze will supply MTS of Khar'kovskaya Oblast with 300,000 rubles' worth of tools, including 6,000 drills; 3,000 cutters; 1,000 chisels; 400 reamers, chasers, and milling cutters; and 20,000 rubles' worth of abrasives. The plant will also supply to Khar'kovskaya Oblast more than 400 vises and three-jaw chucks, which will amount to three sets of equipment for each MTS.

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